



Welcome to the Clark County Community Development e-News. We send this publication out once a month to announce the latest in what's happening. We will attempt to cover a broad range of topics that we hope will be of interest to you. We need your input! We welcome your comments about our news bulletin; and if you have topics you would like us to cover and we haven't, we'll do our best to accommodate you!★

## **Engineering Services Division 2004 Focus Group Feedback and Draft Strategic Plan**

Engineering Services staff met with a spectrum of the development community over a series of eight meetings spanning April through September, 2004. A total of 35 stakeholders participated. [Click here for the rest of the article.](#) ★

## **Is it a nuisance or a compost pile?**

By this time of year most people have completed their spring cleanup, spruced up the lawn, clipped the vegetation back, and in many cases have a pile of vegetation stockpiled in the farthest corner of the yard. But, is that pile compost or is it debris?

Many believe that a stack of leaves, weeds, grass clippings, brush and woody material will gradually decompose on its own and that is all there is to composting. That is how it is explained to Code Enforcement Officers when they respond to complaints of the stench, rats and neighborhood aes-

thetics that the piles of "compost" create for their neighbors. Of course, Code Enforcement isn't fooled by that explanation when the compost pile contains plastic or plastic bags, construction debris, dirt, rocks or large branches, tires and car parts.

In addition, when food wastes are added and the pile is not aerated or maintained properly it creates a harbor for rats, attracts fruit flies, and projects an odor into the neighborhood that is detectable for quite a distance — which most likely explains why it is located on the farthest corner of the parcel.

When done properly, composting is a beneficial resource that can be used as natural fertilizer for your plants or garden. But, if you find that your pile isn't decomposing, you may need to get help before Code Enforcement receives a call about the stench and comes knocking on your door.

There are a variety of ways backyard composting can be done with different systems, enclosures, or containers that can be constructed at home or purchased. If you would like more information on composting the right way, call Master Composter/Recyclers at (360) 882-4567 for more information.★

## **June 2005**

### **Inside:**

- ★ Engineering Services Focus Group Feedback and Draft Strategic Plan
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- ★ What's happening in Long Range Planning?
- ★ Technology Update
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## What's happening in Long Range Planning?

In response to citizen petitions, the Board of Clark County Commissioners is reviewing the 2004 adopted comprehensive plan. A series of work sessions were conducted on planning assumptions used to assess an urban area's capacity to accommodate population and job growth, use of the vacant buildable lands model, and the capital facilities planning approach. After re-examining the planning assumptions, it was determined that the rate of growth previously calculated needed to be increased. The BOCC accepted written requests submitted by June 7 to add specific properties to the county's urban growth areas. Staff will study the requests as they relate to current and potential urban growth boundaries. Through this process, a "preferred" plan will be developed that will then undergo further capital facilities analysis and environmental review per the requirements of the State Growth Management and Environmental Policy Acts.

Other pending actions related to the comprehensive plan include:

- Code amendments removing the local restriction for adjusting urban growth area boundaries only once every five years will be before the BOCC in June;
- The removal of Urban Holding designations within the Vancouver urban growth area will be considered by the Planning Commission in June and the BOCC in July, and
- Thirteen annual review cases and twenty-three docket items are in process. Planning Commission hearings on these commence in

June. The BOCC will consider these amendments in November and December.

For more information the comp plan review process, please visit our Web site at <http://www.clark.wa.gov/longrangeplan/review/index.html>.\*

## Technology Update

### Why make all those calls when a machine can do it for you?

Selectron Technologies has selected Community Development as a test site for their new outbound dialing product. This product will be used to notify customers of impending code changes, expiring permits, meetings etc. Currently, Animal Control and Long Range Planning are the most active testers of the software. The outbound dialing software enables us to send large groups of emails or telephone calls to customers. The telephone function allows the user to decide when to call and how many times to try the number. Two types of messages can be sent – notifications and alerts. Notifications are messages based on data drawn from Tidemark. Alerts are static messages (everyone gets the same call or email), and are developed in-house.

### Web-based customer queuing system proposals are due soon.

Permit Services will soon be reviewing proposals for a new Web-based customer queuing system. Customers will see a final product that looks much like the system in the joint lobby on the second floor of the Public Services Center. Behind the scenes, we hope this new web-based system will have more functionality and be easier to manage.



## Quick Clicks

- Comprehensive Plan Update
- Data Library
- Team Focus
- Department Calendar

## Divisions

- Animal Control
- Building Division
- Code Enforcement
- Development Services
- Engineering Services
- Fire Marshal's Office
- Long Range Planning
- Permit Services

### Plan Monitoring project is nearing completion.

Long Range Planning received a grant from CTED to build a system that allows us to collect building permit data from all the other cities in the county, convert it to a standard format, and enter it into Tidemark. This will provide a single, countywide source of plan and growth data and provide reports on density, critical areas used, and more. Cities and other interest groups will be able to access the data collection reports on the Web for their own use.

### What's the status of my project?

A Web-based report that allows people to see the status of any project will go online in July. This information is already available from the IVR system through [fax on demand](#).

**Web permitting remains on hold.** This countywide project is BIG and moving slowly. We expect to see further progress in the beginning of 2006, upon installation of the point of sale cashiering system.★

### New name for the Customer Service Division

On July 18 the Customer Service Division will officially change its name to Permit Services Division. In addition, the Community Development Specialists will receive new titles of Permit Technicians. The new division name and staff titles will provide a natural association for people who are unfamiliar with our department, how we are organized and what services we provide.★

### New Faces

**Donovan Golden** has accepted an Engineering Tech position with Engineering Services. Donovan brings five years of experience with ODOT as a senior inspector to Community Development. Donovan also has earned a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from Portland State University.



In his personal life, Donovan enjoys tinkering with cars, remodeling his home and spending time with his family.



**Debbie Calvert** has accepted an OAIL position in Central Files. Debbie comes to us from Morrison Child & Family Services where she served as records supervisor for 11 years. Debbie has an Associates degree in Medical Records from Portland Community College.

When not at work, Debbie enjoys traveling in her motor home with her family — husband of seven years and four sons. She also likes to crochet and ride motorcycles.

### What's On TV Tonight?

There is a lot on CVTV (channel 23) about Community Development. For example, you can watch the animal control, land use, and code enforcement hearings, as well as the county's Planning Commission. To see the complete schedule click here:

[www.cvtv.org](http://www.cvtv.org) ★

### CVTV goes live on the Internet

You can now watch or listen to programs airing on CVTV — such as animal control, code enforcement and land use hearings, BOCC hearings and public meetings — on the web in real time. To access the video, go to [www.cvtv.org](http://www.cvtv.org) and click on **Watch CVTV (High Speed)**.

We've changed our name to

# Permit Services

protecting your investment through permitting 

**Susan Anderson** is our newest Deputy Fire Marshal. Susan spent the last seven years with the city of Vancouver as a Deputy Fire Marshal and Zoning Inspector. Susan has a Bachelors degree in Psychology from Oregon State University.



In her personal time, Susan enjoys mountain biking, hiking, snow skiing, boating and traveling to warm places.★

### ICON Employee Recognition Program

ICON, the Community Development Employee Recognition Program, has been developed to recognize staff members of the department for outstanding service.

The program will focus on five qualities: knowledge, innovation, integrity, motivation, and generosity. We believe these characteristics make a Community Development ICON.

The ICON award will be given to departmental employees to recognize performance excellence for contributions made to the overall mission of the Community Development Department. This award is meant to honor an employee that not only performs his/her job duties but gives extra effort and goes above and beyond the call of duty.

The ICON quality "Knowledge" was focused on from March through June.

**KNOWLEDGE** - *Knowledgeable employees lead to better informed customers, which in turn improve the staff's ability to maintain a high level of service while facing a growing demand for services.*

An organization is only as good as the quality of its employees. Knowledgeable employees lead to better informed customers, which in turn improve the staff's ability to maintain a high level of service while facing growing demands.

The DCD Icon recognized for his/her knowledge will:

- Demonstrate comprehensive knowledge gained through experience and or training.
- Enable the flow of relevant information necessary to create organizational and customer value.
- Adapt readily to the changes in procedure and a shifting work environment while maintaining a high level of work quality and customer service.★

### ICON Knowledge Awards

#### Tom Scott

During Tom's tenure as a fire inspector, Tom has had to adapt to many changes in the codes and did so without missing a beat. Tom has an extensive knowledge of the code coupled with an excellent understanding of what it is trying to achieve. With both of these attributes, Tom is able to meet the intent of the code using alternative methods, thereby accomplishing equivalent or better fire protection.

His knowledge and experience have helped numerous applicants over-



Tom Scott



come obstacles, rather than becoming another roadblock to their project. Tom is an exceptional employee whose knowledge and resourcefulness enable the Fire Marshal's Office to provide a better service to the public.

### Donna Goddard

Donna has been at the forefront of many issues confronting our department, providing insightful commentary and solutions. She has an in-depth knowledge of the building and zoning codes and always has time to answer questions.

Donna's knowledge expands outside of the regular boundaries of her job as well. She has worked many hours on the committee involved in finding solutions to Clark County's health care costs. She has also been an active member in the employee union since she began started with the county.

Donna's exceptional knowledge of her position as well as these employee relations activities make her a true asset to the county.

### Vern Perry

Vern possesses a vast knowledge of the codes and enthusiastically shares that knowledge with his co-workers. Vern has spent a good deal of his time at the county helping to train new employees and mentor both current and new Building Division staff. The newly hired building inspectors have benefited greatly with his assistance in learning their new jobs.

One of the most important at-

tributes that Vern possesses is his ability to explain the code in common language and to outline the reasons for the requirements to our customers. All of the above characteristics, plus many more make Vern a knowledgeable asset to the Building Division and the construction profession.★

### Kudos

Congratulations to the following building inspectors and plans examiner for obtaining their professional certifications:

2003 Uniform Mechanical Code & Promotion to Combo Inspector II -

**Boe Richards & Chuck Clark**

2003 Uniform Mechanical Code (Commercial & Residential) - **Jason Jaworsky & Michelle Wall**

2003 International Building Code - **Kami Simpson & Rich Walters**★



Back: Kami Simpson, Boe Richards,  
Michelle Wall, Charles Clark  
Front: Jason Jaworsky, Rich Walters

### ComDev in the News

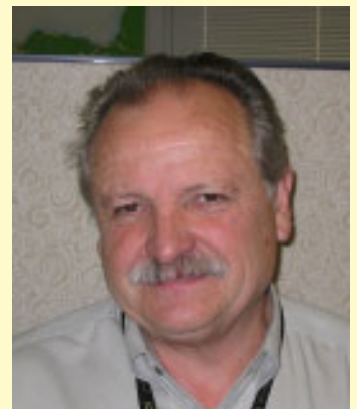
**La Center, Ridgefield vie for same turf**

The Columbian 6-19-05

[http://www.columbian.com/06192005/front\\_pa/288328.cfm](http://www.columbian.com/06192005/front_pa/288328.cfm)



Donna Goddard



Vern Perry

**Officials hope fines, patrols will snuff illegal fireworks** The Oregonian 6-17-05

[http://www.oregonlive.com/metronorth/oregonian/index.ssf?/base/metro\\_north\\_news/1119002465320290.xml&coll=7](http://www.oregonlive.com/metronorth/oregonian/index.ssf?/base/metro_north_news/1119002465320290.xml&coll=7)

**Legacy Hospital under microscope** The Columbian 6-17-05

<http://www.columbian.com/06172005/business/288098.cfm>

**Suspicious fire destroys home.** The Columbian 6-13-05

[http://www.columbian.com/06132005/clark\\_co/286540.cfm](http://www.columbian.com/06132005/clark_co/286540.cfm)

**Storedahl wins support for gravel mine.** The Columbian 6-9-05

[http://www.columbian.com/06092005/clark\\_co/285166.cfm](http://www.columbian.com/06092005/clark_co/285166.cfm)

**Ruling backs gravel mine plan.** The Oregonian 6-9-05

[http://www.oregonlive.com/metronorth/oregonian/index.ssf?/base/metro\\_north\\_news/1118311629318380.xml&coll=7](http://www.oregonlive.com/metronorth/oregonian/index.ssf?/base/metro_north_news/1118311629318380.xml&coll=7)

**C-Tran parking lot back on track.** The Oregonian 6-8-05

[http://www.oregonlive.com/metronorth/oregonian/index.ssf?/base/metro\\_north\\_news/1118225397236830.xml&coll=7](http://www.oregonlive.com/metronorth/oregonian/index.ssf?/base/metro_north_news/1118225397236830.xml&coll=7)

**Pushing county's growth boundary.** The Columbian 6-6-05

[http://www.columbian.com/06062005/front\\_pa/283944.cfm](http://www.columbian.com/06062005/front_pa/283944.cfm)

**Clark County, cities consider room to grow.** The Oregonian 6-6-05

[http://www.oregonlive.com/metronorth/oregonian/index.ssf?/base/metro\\_north\\_news/1117879716162450.xml&coll=7](http://www.oregonlive.com/metronorth/oregonian/index.ssf?/base/metro_north_news/1117879716162450.xml&coll=7)

**Ridgefield ready for growth spurt.**

The Oregonian 6-3-05

[http://www.oregonlive.com/metronorth/oregonian/index.ssf?/base/metro\\_north\\_news/111779345363940.xml&coll=7](http://www.oregonlive.com/metronorth/oregonian/index.ssf?/base/metro_north_news/111779345363940.xml&coll=7)

**Hearing on home-business rules set.** The Columbian 6-1-05

[http://www.columbian.com/06012005/clark\\_co/282427.cfm](http://www.columbian.com/06012005/clark_co/282427.cfm)

**Commission OKs major points of growth plan.** The Columbian 6-1-05

[http://www.columbian.com/06012005/clark\\_co/282416.cfm](http://www.columbian.com/06012005/clark_co/282416.cfm)

**New law toughens dogfight penalties.** The Columbian 5-17-04

[http://www.columbian.com/05172005/clark\\_co/277134.cfm](http://www.columbian.com/05172005/clark_co/277134.cfm)

**Home supply dwindles.** The Columbian 5-15-05

<http://www.columbian.com/05152005/business/276388.cfm>

**Grow wisely. Clark County's extensively prepared 2004 growth plan should not be recrafted.** The Columbian 5-13-05

[http://www.columbian.com/05132005/clark\\_co/275956.cfm](http://www.columbian.com/05132005/clark_co/275956.cfm)

**House market turns red-hot in Clark County.** The Columbian 5-13-05

[http://www.columbian.com/05132005/front\\_pa/275752.cfm](http://www.columbian.com/05132005/front_pa/275752.cfm) \*

## Expanding our audience

Do you know others who would benefit from this information? Any list serves that would be appropriate for us to post this on? On the other hand, if you would like to be taken off our e-mailing list, just let us know. Contact Désirée at [desiree.demonye@clark.wa.gov](mailto:desiree.demonye@clark.wa.gov) \*